

REMARKS

By the foregoing Amendment, Claims 1, 13 and 27 have been amended, and Claim 26 has been cancelled. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 7-10, 13-17, 20-23, 27, 28 and 31-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) on the grounds of anticipation by Briles, disclosing a nut body 12 with a captive washer 14 that fits over the base of the nut body 12. The Examiner indicated that the "collar" of Briles is read to be inclusive of both the nut body 12 and the captive washer 14. Claim 1 has been amended to recite "a unitary swage collar." Claims 13 and 27 have been similarly amended. Support for the amendment can be found in the Figs 1-4E. Briles discloses at column 5, lines 20-23, that the washer 14 is captive on the nut, but is freely rotatable relative to the nut. In addition, as is explained in Briles at column 6, lines 25-30, the captive washer 14 does not seal off the outer ends of the passages 52. It is respectfully submitted that the nut assembly of the nut and washer in Briles does not form a unitary collar as is recited in the claims, and that the unitary collar of the invention provides for improved sealing of the connection of the fastener to a workpiece, such as parts of aircraft fuel tanks. It is respectfully submitted that Briles does not teach, disclose or suggest a unitary swage collar, as is claimed, and that Claims 1-4, 7-10, 13-17, 20-23, 27, 28 and 31-35 are novel and inventive over Briles, and that the rejection of Claims 1-4, 7-10, 13-17, 20-23, 27, 28 and 31-35 on the grounds of anticipation by Briles should be withdrawn.

Claims 26-28, 31, 33 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) on the grounds of obviousness from Briles in view of Armour. Claim 26 has been cancelled. Claim 27 recites "a sealing ring disposed entirely within the internal shoulder and adapted to receive the pin." Although Armour discloses a unitary collar, it is respectfully submitted that Briles is inapposite because it does not disclose a unitary collar. It is respectfully submitted that Briles and Armour do not teach, disclose or suggest a sealing ring disposed entirely within the internal shoulder of a unitary collar, as is claimed. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 27-28, 31, 33 and 34 are novel and inventive over Briles and Armour, and that the rejection pertaining to Claims 27-28, 31, 33 and 34 on the grounds of obviousness from Briles in view of Armour should be withdrawn.

Claims 5, 6, 18, 19, 29 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) on the grounds of obviousness from Briles in view of Armour, and further in view of Rath. Rath was cited as disclosing a collar made of aluminum or titanium. Claims 5 and 6 depend from Claim 1, Claims 18 and 19 depend from Claim 13, and Claims 29 and 30 depend from Claim 27. It is respectfully submitted that Briles is inapposite because it does not disclose a unitary collar, and that Briles, Armour, and Rath do not teach, disclose or suggest tightly sealing an internal sealing insert entirely in a unitary swage collar in engagement with a fastener when installed on an assembly of workpieces, as is claimed. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 5, 6, 18, 19, 29 and 30 are novel and inventive over Briles, Armour, and Rath, and that the rejection of Claims 5, 6, 18, 19, 29 and 30 on the grounds of obviousness from Briles in view of Armour and further in view of Rath should be withdrawn.

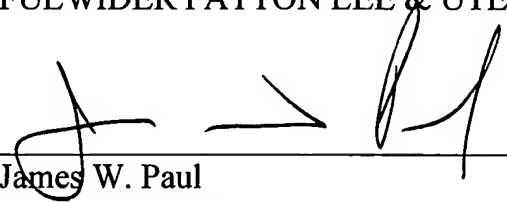
Claims 11, 12, 24 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) on the grounds of obviousness from Briles in view of Breed, which was cited as disclosing a rounded groove and flange. Claims 11 and 12 depend from Claim 1, and Claims 24 and 25 depend from Claim 13. It is respectfully submitted that Briles is inapposite because it does not disclose a unitary collar, and that Briles and Breed do not teach, disclose or suggest tightly sealing an internal sealing insert entirely in a unitary swage collar in engagement with a fastener when installed on an assembly of workpieces, as is claimed. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 11, 12, 24 and 25 are novel and inventive over Briles and Breed, and that the rejection of Claims 11, 12, 24 and 25 on the grounds of obviousness from Briles in view of Breed should be withdrawn.

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application should now be in condition for allowance, and an early favorable action in this regard is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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